

CONFERENCE

* TOPICS AND SPEAKERS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

AT A GLANCE

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8

8 – 9:30 A.M.
REGISTRATION/EXHIBIT VIEWING

9:30 – 10 A.M.
OPENING SESSION – Opening remarks

10 – 11:30 A.M.
SPEAKER – Elmer Cerano, executive director, Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service, will focus on the future and help the audience better understand the social, technological and political changes people with disabilities will likely face.

11:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.
LUNCH – Curtis Decker, executive director, National Association of Protection and Advocacy Systems, will present an insider's view of the recent elections and what we can expect in the next four years.

1:30 – 1:45 P.M.
BREAK

1:45 – 3:45 P.M.
CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

3:45 – 4 P.M.
BREAK

4 – 6 P.M.
CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

6 – 6:30 P.M.
VIEWING OF EXHIBITS

7 – 9 P.M.
RECEPTION – Wild West Hoedown! Put on your bandanna, jeans and cowboy boots and pull up to the chuck wagon for some grub! Be ready to do the boot-scootin' boogie – a country-western band will play your favorite country songs. (Dress in country-western attire.)

MONDAY WORKSHOPS 1:45 – 3:45 P.M.

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY IS MAKING THE FUTURE POSSIBLE

Being part of the community is the vision for many people with disabilities, and assistive technology is making that vision a reality. This workshop will provide information about the myriad of resources available to people with disabilities and their families – both low- and high-tech solutions.

FAIR HOUSING – ENSURING THE FUTURE (WILL BE REPEATED AT 4 P.M.)

Living in the community is fundamental to the goal of total inclusion. However, too many people are being denied this right. This workshop will look at fair housing laws in Indiana and discuss how you can exercise your rights.

SHAPING THE POLITICAL SCENE – IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT

This workshop will provide important results from the Count Us IN polling place survey. Presenters will also show you how to take an active role with the county advisory committees being established to assist with the implementation of HAVA.

LEADERSHIP FOR A NEW AGE – EFFECTING CHANGE FOR THE FUTURE (WILL BE REPEATED AT 4 P.M.)

If you want to be a productive leader who makes change happen, you'll need certain interpersonal skills and techniques. This interactive workshop will explore the art of negotiating, interacting with others, and understanding power and how to use it.

HOW MEDIA SHAPES THE FUTURE

With the advent of CNN and the Internet, we are bombarded with news 24/7. The power of the press is unmistakable – remember, the American public wasn't even aware that President Franklin D. Roosevelt was a wheelchair user while he was in the White House. This workshop will explore how the media has shaped opinion about people with disabilities and how you can work with the media to guide its coverage of disability issues.



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

MONDAY WORKSHOPS 4 – 6 P.M.

WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS IN THIS LEGISLATIVE SESSION

In the upcoming legislative session, the biennial budget and newly elected officials will have a large impact on the direction of future programs. This workshop will examine legislation that will be introduced and how you can be effective in communicating with elected officials.

FAIR HOUSING – ENSURING THE FUTURE

Living in the community is fundamental to the goal of total inclusion. However, too many people are being denied this right. This workshop will look at fair housing laws in Indiana and discuss how you can exercise your rights.

CHARTING YOUR FUTURE THROUGH PATH PLANNING

Your future is determined by how well you plan today. You can play a significant role in determining what future services you will receive, but you'll need to arm yourself with information. This session will feature an experienced panel that can help you navigate the world of individual plans.

LEADERSHIP FOR A NEW AGE –

EFFECTING CHANGE FOR THE FUTURE

If you want to be a productive leader who makes change happen, you'll need certain interpersonal skills and techniques. This interactive workshop will explore the art of negotiating, interacting with others, and understanding power and how to use it.

ENSURING A BRIGHT FUTURE

FOR YOUR CHILD – ARC TRUST

Planning for your child's future is essential, especially if you want your child to have more than their basic needs met. This session will provide you with a road map, as exemplified by the Arc Trust, for leaving funds in a trust for your son or daughter without endangering his or her eligibility for government programs, such as SSI, Medicaid and supported living.

8 – 9:15 A.M.

REGISTRATION/EXHIBIT VIEWING

9:15 A.M. – NOON

PLENARY SESSION – John Dickerson, executive director, The Arc of Indiana, will lead a panel of experts in a discussion about the potential impact of the next phase of the 317 Plan, which offers tremendous hope for the future to thousands of Hoosiers with disabilities and their families.

Nkosi Ali Asante, a certified natural health practitioner, community organizer and martial arts instructor, will talk about leadership and challenge the audience to change the future by looking within and accepting their role as leaders.

NOON – 12:15 P.M.

BREAK

12:15 – 3:15 P.M.

AWARDS LUNCHEON – The seventh annual Award for Excellence in Reporting on Disability Issues honors journalists who examine disability issues and report in “people first” language.

The future holds a great deal of promise but will require a new way of thinking. We will all be called upon to be more innovative, less conventional and more open to new ideas. Charlie and Maria Girsch will challenge the audience to begin thinking creatively by drawing from their book, *Fanning the Creative Spirit*.



NUMBER 9

ECONOMIC POWER

The Department of Workforce Development will provide demonstrations on how to use the DWD kiosk to access information about employment opportunities. Listings from the Job Bank and lists of employment counselors will be available.

CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS (CEUs) AVAILABLE

The Conference has been approved by the Indiana University School of Social Work for Continuing Education Units (CEUs): Monday's sessions (6.75 contact hours of continuing education credit) = \$10; Tuesday's sessions (5.25 contact hours of continuing education credit) = \$10.

To receive CEUs, pick up one form for each day at the Conference registration desk and mail the form, along with a check, to Indiana University. (Checks will not be collected at the Conference.)

LODGING

You are responsible for your own accommodations (unless you are a scholarship recipient living 50 miles or more outside of Indianapolis). A block of rooms at the Westin has been reserved at special rates. The Westin offers accessible rooms upon request; please mention the Conference when registering to receive the discounted rate.

HOST HOTEL

WESTIN INDIANAPOLIS
50 S. CAPITOL AVE.
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204
(317) 262-8100

Single: \$81/day
Double: \$91/day
Triple: \$101/day
Quad: \$111/day

Tax rate on all rooms is 12% (not included in above rates).

RESERVATION DEADLINE IS THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7.

DRAWINGS FOR DOOR PRIZES WILL BE HELD THROUGHOUT THE CONFERENCE.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Sandy Kite Hunt • 2004 Indiana Conference for People with Disabilities • P.O. Box 47933 • Indianapolis, IN 46247-0933
(317) 786-7272 (voice and fax) • (866) 786-7272 toll-free (voice and fax) • SKH4HOG@prodigy.net (e-mail)

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

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NKOSI ALI ASANTE is a certified natural health practitioner, community organizer and martial arts instructor who is dedicated to the development of healthy and fully inclusive communities. He founded a group that supports the growth and development of African-American men and youth, and has organized national and international youth gatherings and leadership institutes as director of the American Friends Service Committee's National Youth Action Program.



ELMER CERANO is the executive director of Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service and has spent more than two decades working for people with disabilities. Cerano is a professional member of the World Future Society and is a student of mega-trends that impact American society. Seeking to design a future world where all people belong, Cerano is passionate in his belief that planners must look to the past to reduce the risk of repeating historic holocausts.



CURTIS DECKER, JD, is the executive director of the National Association of Protection and Advocacy Systems (NAPAS), a membership association comprised of 90 protection and advocacy agencies and client assistant programs that provide legal representation to people with disabilities. Decker is also the chair of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD), a coalition that includes more than 100 national consumer, advocacy, provider and professional organizations that advocate on behalf of people of all ages with physical and mental disabilities and their families.



JOHN DICKERSON has been the executive director of The Arc of Indiana since 1983. From 1974 – 1978, John was the assistant director of Local Unit Affairs for The Arc of Indiana, and has also worked for The Arc of South Dakota and The Arc of the United States. In his many years with The Arc, John has served with consumers, volunteers, parents and professionals in the field of disabilities.



CHARLIE AND MARIA GIRSCH claim to have taught Jack how to get out of his box. They have been professional toy inventors for more than 25 years and have licensed more than 200 toy and game ideas worldwide. They hold U.S. and international patents and have won Germany's prestigious Children's Game of the Year Award. The Girsches founded Creativity Central, through which they teach, train, publish and speak on the topic of creative thinking skills. They are authors of the new book, *Fanning the Creative Spirit: Two Toy Inventors Simplify Creativity*, a witty and entertaining compendium of tips, tools and techniques they use in their inventing and that anyone can use to think and act more creatively.

